



News for Immediate Release  
January 22, 2007

**Contacts:**

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

**DWR Works 24/7 to Fix Gorman Creek Improvement Channel**

SACRAMENTO –Department of Water Resources (DWR) crews and Granite Construction Company employees are working around the clock to repair a section of the Gorman Creek Improvement Channel near Lake Pyramid in northern Los Angeles County.

About 250 yards of concrete canal liner failed on January 15 during water deliveries from Quail Lake to Pyramid Lake. The failure point is near Interstate 5 and the Peace Valley Pipeline but neither the highway nor the pipeline have been impacted.

The Gorman Creek Improvement Channel (GCIC) is a component of the State Water Project's West Branch that delivers State water to the Los Angeles region and is also used for local stormwater runoff.

Based on follow-up engineering inspections and analysis it is presumed that water managed to get behind the channel's concrete liner and eroded the supporting foundation soils leading to the failure of the concrete.

According to DWR Division of Engineering Chief Richard Sanchez, "This can be compared to a vehicle tire that develops defects over time and then one day suddenly fails under normal conditions."

Although the water destroyed the failed channel sections and washed them away, it is believed from examining the remaining concrete liner that long standing cracking and/or offsets in the concrete liner joints/cracks could have contributed to the failure.

It is estimated that repairs could take three to four weeks, depending on weather conditions. Preliminary estimates put the cost of repairs in the range of \$1.7 to \$2 million. State Water Project deliveries will not be affected by the channel failure but the collapse is slowing refilling of Castaic Lake, which was drawn down for maintenance work.

---

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

---

Visit [Archived News Releases](#) or return to the [DWR Home](#)

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.